

Cannock Chase Council - Modern Slavery Act 2015
Modern Slavery and Transparency Statement

This statement is published in response to the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Cannock Chase Council is committed to preventing slavery and human trafficking in our corporate activities and in our supply chain management. This statement sets out Cannock Chase Council's actions to understand all potential modern slavery risks related to our business and to put in place steps that are aimed at ensuring that there is no slavery or human trafficking in our own business and our supply chains.

Cannock Chase Council only operates within the United Kingdom. Whilst the risk of slavery and human trafficking is considered low due to the nature of the Council's business, the Council remains vigilant to any potential risks and through our procurement policy, strategy and guidance sets high expectations from its supply chains. The Council considers that, due to the nature of its business and the policies/processes that are in operation, there are no areas of its business that are considered to be at high risk of slavery or human trafficking.

Cannock Chase Council recognises that it has a responsibility to take a robust approach to slavery and human trafficking. In addition to the Council's responsibility as an employer, it also acknowledges its duty as a Council to notify the Secretary of State of suspected victims of slavery or human trafficking as introduced by section 52 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

The Council is committed to preventing slavery and human trafficking in its corporate activities and to ensuring that its supply chains are free from slavery and human trafficking. This is managed by:

1. The Council signing up to the Co-Operative (<https://party.coop/local/councillors/modern-slavery-charter/#intro>) Party Charter Against Modern Slavery.
2. Officers being made aware of the potential for modern slavery risks through training.
3. Officers understanding the National Referral Mechanism and working with partners when this is indicated.
4. Officers will use a risk-based approach to work with existing suppliers to review and assure that their supply chain is free from modern slavery.
5. As part of tender evaluation and ongoing contract management, Offices will consider the potential and likelihood of modern slavery through a clear understanding of the supplier's business.
6. When bidding for potential business, council officers will validate their submissions with a declaration as to how, as a supplier, they assure the buyer that we, the council, are free from modern slavery in our supply chain.

Co-Operative Party Charter Against Modern Slavery

The purpose then of the Co-op Party's important new Charter Against Modern Slavery is to commit signatory councils to taking ten practical steps to ensure their contractors do not exploit anybody as a modern slave, for instance through forced labour or debt bondage.

1. Train its corporate procurement team to understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply's (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply.
2. Require its contractors to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance.
3. Challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery.
4. Highlight to its suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one.
5. Publicise its whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
6. Require its tendered contractors to adopt a whistle-blowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
7. Review its contractual spending regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery.
8. Highlight for its suppliers any risks identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed.
9. Refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery.
10. Report publicly on the implementation of this policy annually.

Procurement Regulations

The Council procures goods and services from various suppliers and this is governed by our procurement regulations – see link www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk.

Relevant policies

Cannock Chase Council reviews its policies and procedures on an on-going basis to ensure they remain compliant and fit for purpose. The following policies and procedures are considered to be key in meeting the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act:

Safeguarding polices: Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy

Whistleblowing policy: Confidential Reporting Policy

Employer and Employee Responsibilities Code: Code of Conduct for Employees

Recruitment: Best Practice

Agency Workers: National Agency Workers Directive

Partnerships

Cannock Chase Council works in partnership with a wide range of partners and agencies to prevent abuse and neglect, to detect and report occurrences and to support victims. This includes District and Borough Councils, Staffordshire Police, Staffordshire Fire and Crime Commissioner and the Local Safeguarding Boards.

Approval for this Statement

This statement has been approved by the Leader of the Council.

It will continue to be reviewed annually and updates will be provided on this issue in the Council's Annual Report for each financial year.

Signature:

Date: October 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Adamson', written in a cursive style.

**Councillor George Adamson
Leader of the Council**